

adjacent transverse edges of said trunking base sections, rear and top longitudinal tongues respectively adapted to bear elastically on the rear face and the opposite top face of the corresponding back, said rear tongues being substantially flat and having a thickness from about 0.2 mm to about 1 mm, said rear tongues being accommodated rearwardly beyond the substantially plane rear faces.--

[Amend claim 2 as follows:]

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--2. (amended) The device claimed in claim 17, wherein there are three said longitudinal tongues on each edge of said plate adjacent a transverse edge of a respective one of said trunking base sections, said longitudinal tongues are disposed in an arrangement resembling the shape of a winners' podium, two of said three longitudinal tongues are top longitudinal tongues, spaced from each other and positioned on the top face of said plate so as to bear against the top face of said back of the respective one of said trunking base sections, and a central tongue located between said two top longitudinal tongues is positioned on said rear face of said plate so as to bear against said rear face of said back of said trunking base section.--

[Amend claim 3 as follows:]

--3. (amended) The device claimed in claim 17, wherein said longitudinal tongues have the same thickness.--

[Amend claim 4 as follows:]

--4. (amended) The device claimed in claim 17, wherein the thickness of each of said longitudinal tongues is approximately 0.5 mm.--

[Amend claim 5 as follows:]

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--5. (amended) A device for connecting at least two lengths of a trunking adapted to bear against a support surface, said device including a plate for joining backs of trunking base sections, said backs of said trunking base sections having substantially plane rear faces adapted to bear against the support surface and opposed top faces, said plate having a rear face adapted to be flush with said rear faces of said backs and said plate having on each of its edges adjacent transverse edges of said trunking base sections rear and top longitudinal tongues respectively adapted to bear elastically on the rear face and the opposite top face of the corresponding back, said rear tongues being substantially flat and having a thickness from about 0.2 mm to about 1 mm, wherein said plate has at least two said transverse edges adapted to be placed adjacent respective transverse edges of two trunking base sections.--

[Amend claim 6 as follows:]

--6. (amended) The device claimed in claim 5, wherein said two transverse edges of said plate are at an angle to each other enabling connection of two trunking base

sections extending in two different directions in the same plane.--

[Amend claim 7 as follows:]

--7. (amended) The device claimed in claim 5, wherein said plate has walls on its longitudinal edges adapted to be aligned and in continuity with lateral flanges of said trunking base sections.--

[Amend claim 8 as follows:]

--8. (twice amended) A device for connecting at least two trunking base sections, including a plate for joining backs of said trunking base sections, said plate having on each of its transverse edges adjacent transverse edges of the respective trunking base sections longitudinal tongues adapted to bear on two opposite faces of each of said backs, which tongues are substantially flat, have a thickness from about 0.2 mm to about 1 mm, and are adapted to bear elastically against said opposite faces of said back,

wherein said plate has at least two transverse edges adapted to be placed adjacent two transverse edges of respective trunking base sections, and

wherein said plate carries on its top face a pillar with an orifice opening onto a rear face of said plate, said orifice forming a passage for a fixing member for fixing said plate to a support.--

[Amend claim 9 as follows:]

--9. (amended) The device claimed in claim 1, wherein said plate has two parts with an inside or outside corner between said parts of said plate and each transverse edge of each part of said plate adapted to be placed adjacent a transverse edge of the respective trunking base section is provided with longitudinal tongues.--

[Amend claim 10 as follows:]

--10. (twice amended) The device claimed in claim 9, wherein said trunking base sections have lateral flanges and wherein said tongues are adapted to bear elastically also on and said lateral flanges of said trunking base sections.--

B1 [Amend claim 11 as follows:]

--11. (amended) A device for connecting at least two lengths of a trunking adapted to bear against a support surface, said device including a plate for joining backs of trunking base sections, said backs of said trunking base sections having substantially plane rear faces adapted to bear against the support surface and opposed top faces, said plate having a rear face adapted to be flush with said rear faces of said backs and said plate having on each of its edges adjacent transverse edges of said trunking base sections rear and top longitudinal tongues respectively adapted to bear elastically on the rear face and the opposite top face of the corresponding back, said rear tongues being substantially flat

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and having a thickness from about 0.2 mm to about 1 mm, wherein said plate has two parts with an inside or outside corner between said parts of said plate and each transverse edge of each part of said plate adapted to be placed adjacent a transverse edge of a trunking base section is provided with longitudinal tongues and wherein said two parts of said plates are fixed relative to each other.--

Amend claim 13 as follows:

--13. (amended) The device claimed in claim 1, wherein said plate is of a one-piece plastic construction.--

[Amend claim 14 as follows:]

--14. (amended) A device for connecting two lengths of trunking, the device comprising:

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a plate having a flat rear surface arranged and adapted to bear against a support, a top surface opposite said flat rear surface, and two edges that are each arranged and adapted to bear against an edge of a different one of two lengths of trunking when backs of the two lengths of trunking bear against the support;

each of said two edges of said plate having at least one flat bottom tongue that extends beyond the respective one of said edges in a plane parallel to said plate, said bottom tongue adjoining said rear surface of said plate and having a flat bottom that is spaced from said rear surface of said plate by a thickness of said bottom tongue and a flat top that

is substantially coplanar with said rear surface of said plate, said flat bottom of said bottom tongue being arranged and adapted to bear against the support and said flat top of said bottom tongue being arranged and adapted to bear against the back of the respective length of trunking; and

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each of said two edges of said plate having at least one top tongue that extends beyond the respective one of said edges in a plane parallel to said plate, said top tongue adjoining said top surface of said plate and having a bottom that is substantially coplanar with said top surface of said plate and that is arranged and adapted to bear against a front surface of the back of the respective length of trunking,

said bottom of said top tongue and said flat top of said bottom tongue being separated by a distance equal to the thickness of said plate.--

Amend claim 16 as follows:

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--16. (amended) The device of claim 14, wherein each of said two edges of said plate has at least two said top tongues.--

[Add the following new claims:]

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--17. (new) The device of claim 1, wherein said top tongues are also substantially flat and have a thickness from about 0.2 mm to about 1 mm.

--18. (new) The device of claim 5, wherein said top tongues are also substantially flat and have a thickness from